

BOARD OF SELECTMEN
NOVEMBER 16, 2011
REGULAR SESSION

Members Present: David Parker, Francis Cavaco, John Whelan,
William Rice

Robert McLintock arrived at 7:30 p.m.

Town Administrator: Pamela T. Nolan

Chairman Parker called the meeting to order at 7 p.m. followed by the Pledge of Allegiance and moment of silence. He announced that the meeting was taped via audio and video. Mr. George Morse of the Seekonk Star was taping audio.

The order of business moved to:

APPOINTMENT OF TOWN PERSONNEL

Consider the Appointment of Jason Berube as Probationary Firefighter

Fire Chief Alan Jack introduced and recommended the appointment of Jason Berube as Probationary Career Firefighter.

A motion was made by Mr. Whelan, seconded by Mr. Cavaco, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To appoint Jason Berube as Probationary Career Firefighter,
effective November 17, 2011.

Mr. McLintock was not in attendance at the time of the vote.

Mr. Berube was sworn in by Town Clerk Janet Parker.

CONSENT CALENDAR

Estimate Resident Population for ABCC with Reference to Seasonal Alcohol Licenses

Executive Assistant Anne P. Rogers explained this is done annually for seasonal licenses and to allow some establishments to sell liquor from April 1 of a year through January 15 of the following year.

A motion was made by Mr. Whelan, seconded by Mr. Cavaco, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To notify the ABCC that the estimated population as of 2012
is 13,700 for the purpose of supplying seasonal alcohol licenses.

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Mr. McLintock was not in attendance at the time of the vote.

Invite to Surrounding Towns for 200th Anniversary

Town Clerk Janet Parker announced that Carol Bragg has been helping with the publicity for the 200th Anniversary. She asked that the Chairman co-sign the letters with her. She had a list of planned activities.

A motion was made by Mr. Whelan, seconded by Mr. Cavaco, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To authorize the Chairman to co-sign the invitation letters to surrounding towns re: the 200th anniversary celebration.

Mr. McLintock was not in attendance at the time of the vote.

Mrs. Parker noted that the dinner dance is scheduled for January 21, 2012. Tickets are \$50 each.

OLD BUSINESS

Consider Approval of Snow Plow Vendors for DPW

A motion was made by Mr. Cavaco, seconded by Mr. Whelan, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve Richard Amaral, Lamontagne Construction. LLC, Eastside Landscaping and Brian Fournier as snow plow vendors.

McLintock was not in the room at the time of the vote.

Consideration of Articles 4 and 5 for Town Meeting Warrant

A motion was made by Mr. Whelan, seconded by Mr. Cavaco, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To support Article 4 (transfer \$500,000 from free cash to Municipal Capital Stabilization Fund) for the Town Meeting Warrant.

Mr. McLintock was not in the room at the time of the vote.

A motion was made by Mr. Whelan, seconded by Mr. Cavaco, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To support Article 5 (transfer \$500,000 from free cash to Stabilization Fund).

Mr. McLintock was not in the room at the time of the vote.

Final Review of Articles for Warrant

Chairman Parker stated that the Board had not voted on the animal shelter expansion. It was forwarded to the Capital Improvement Committee. No action was taken by the CIC.

A motion was made by Mr. Rice, seconded by Mr. Whelan, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To support Article 3 (Seekonk Animal Shelter).

Mr. McLintock was not in attendance at the time of the meeting.

Board members will present articles at Town Meeting: 1-4 Mr. McLintock, 5-8 Mr. Whelan, 9-12 Chairman Parker, 13-15 Mr. Rice, and 16-18 Mr. Cavaco.

Update on Banna Station from the Banna Station Building Committee

Mr. Arthur Foulkes reported that the committee made a list of costs: architect - \$3,700, alternative (schematic for second floor building) - \$1,200, and EPD - \$1,600.

He said they found out there is an asbestos issue and there might be an oil tank on that property.

Mrs. Nolan will check with Mr. Lamoureux. A firm is getting an estimate on asbestos removal.

Capt. Michael Healy felt the oil tank had been removed.

Mr. Foulkes said it could be a one-story building. The Building Commissioner indicated a sprinkler system would not be necessary if it is less than 4,200 sq. ft.

A motion was made by Mr. Whelan, seconded by Mr. Cavaco, and it was unanimously

VOTED: To approve the contract with Blount Bennett Architects, Ltd. in the amount of \$6,600 and authorize the Town Administrator to sign.

NEW BUSINESS

Discussion on Complaint from Career Firefighters Regarding Call Firefighters Recruitment Procedures

Adam Clement, President of the Seekonk Firefighters, Local 1931, referred to a letter from a former call firefighter indicating that any former member who would be interested in returning to an active member would simply have to take a physical from the doctor and be reinstated.

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On Jan. 5, 2011, the Board voted to eliminate call firefighters. He questioned why the call firefighters would be hiring members back.

Mr. Clement said the letter was written by James Garrott, Call Association President, and David Sullivan. The action taken to hire four additional firefighters and eliminate four call firefighters was supported by the career and call firefighters. He does not understand why the call firefighters are trying to recruit on their own.

Mr. Whelan felt that vote was recanted and further that it is illegal to disassemble a union according to Mass. General Laws. He asked if it would be in violation of Town Charter.

Chairman Parker explained that all union contracts are subject to funding. The call firefighters' contract is still in effect and will stay in effect until it runs out.

Mr. McLintock asked why career firefighters are threatened by the call firefighters.

Mr. Clement responded that is not true. The issue is that they are trying to recruit individuals outside a process established several years ago.

Chairman Parker advised that in January the Board will meet with the Fire Chief for a thorough discussion about staffing.

He assured that the Town Administrator, Fire Chief, or Board of Selectmen are not recruiting for call firefighters.

Lt. Garrott questioned why the union was concerned about the letter. He said in past practice in the call system, they were asked by the previous Board to prepare a letter to generate interest. About two months ago, he met with Mrs. Nolan and Chief Jack regarding communication and how to fix the call department.

He asked the Chief if he ever sent letters to individuals who had left. The Chief responded that he had.

Lt. Garrott explained that the letter was to see if there was any interest. He intended to meet with the Chief and Mrs. Nolan after he had all the information together. He is not trying to take away from the career firefighters.

Mr. Clement said he brought this forward because he got the letter from a concerned citizen. He said the career union does not run the department, nor does the call firefighters.

Mr. McLintock said he has been asking for a meeting with the Chief since he was elected. He didn't understand why it takes six months. He said there needs to be an open debate on how to improve response times in the south and north ends of town.

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Chairman Parker said one of the reasons for the four additional career firefighters was to increase performance.

Mr. McLintock said that has nothing to do with response time since these people are all in the central station.

Mr. Garrott said that call firefighters need to be part of all discussions.

Chairman Parker said all involved will be included at the January meeting.

Mr. Alan Grocott felt the call firefighters hired as career were given special privileges.

Words exchanged between Mr. Grocott and Mr. Garrott.

Chairman Parker ended discussion.

TOWN ADMINISTRATOR'S REPORT

Save-A-Pet Announcement

Mrs. Nolan announced a Safe-A-Pet fundraiser. Santa will visit homes on December 5-9, 2011 from 6 to 8 p.m. for a \$25.00 per visit donation. For more information, call Mrs. Parker at home after 5 p.m.

Kiwanis Tree Lighting Announcement

The Annual Tree Lighting will take place on Thursday, December 1, 2011, at 6 p.m. at Town Hall. Donations of food items will be accepted for Doorways.

Mrs. Nolan advised that the warrant is done and posted and will be on the website this week. The Town Meeting is on Monday, November 28, 2011.

BOARD OF SELECTMEN LIAISON REPORTS AND COMMENTS

Accounts Payable Warrant

Mr. Cavaco noted this is the third week in a row with no problems.

Mr. McLintock apologized for being late.

Mr. Cavaco referred to an article in the November 6, 2011 Attleboro Sun Chronicle re: increased alcohol licenses to allow supermarkets and other large retailers to hold liquor licenses. It will be a ballot question in 2012.

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COMMUNITY SPEAKS

Town Moderator Michelle Hines advised the show on the warrant articles will be aired on TV9 once a day this week and twice a day next week in preparation for the Town Meeting.

Mr. Donald Kinniburgh inquired about the Town Hall sign at the entrance to Peck Street.

Chairman Parker said the previous Board decided to refurbish it.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

At 8:08 p.m. a motion was made by Mr. Whelan, seconded by Mr. Cavaco, to adjourn Open Session and go into Executive Session to discuss strategy with respect to potential litigation re: Wheaton Avenue in accordance with M.G.L., c. 30A, section 21(a)(3); not to return to Open Session.

The vote: Mr. Whelan ó Aye; Mr. Cavaco ó aye; Mr. McLintock ó Aye; Mr. Rice ó Aye; Chairman Parker ó Aye.

Respectfully submitted,

John Whelan, Clerk

Patricia Gamer, Secretary